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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/562,588

05/30/2006

Young-Man Park

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Ladas & Parry
5670 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 2100
Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679

EXAMINER

TREYGER, ILYA Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/29/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/562,588	Applicant(s) PARK ET AL.	
	Examiner ILYA Y. TREYGER	Art Unit 3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/28/2009</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim 1 is amended.
2. Claims 1-12 are examined on the merits.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 12/30/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive:
4. With respect to claim 1, Applicants argue that JP 11-076296 does not disclose the claimed invention because the reference does not disclose the adhesive tape fixed to the exterior of a diaper but instead is fixed to an internal surface of the article.

However, the particular location of the adhesive sticker depends of the way the diaper has been folded, and therefore it is the matter of mere relocation of the essential working parts of the invention. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to locate the adhesive sticker depending of the way the article has been folded in, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70 (**MPEP 2144.04 (VI-C)**).

5. Applicants further argue that JP 11-076296 disclose the claimed invention because the adhesive tape of JP 11-076296 is intended to be used **once**. However, the intention to use the article ones does not prevent the mentioned article from being capable of using repeatedly.

With regard to newly added limitation of “the fastening sticker does not have an inseparable fixing edge portion fixed to the main body of the diaper”, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the

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fixing edge portion of the fastening sticker separable, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlicnran*, 168 USPQ 177, 179 (***MPEP 2144.04 (V-C)***).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

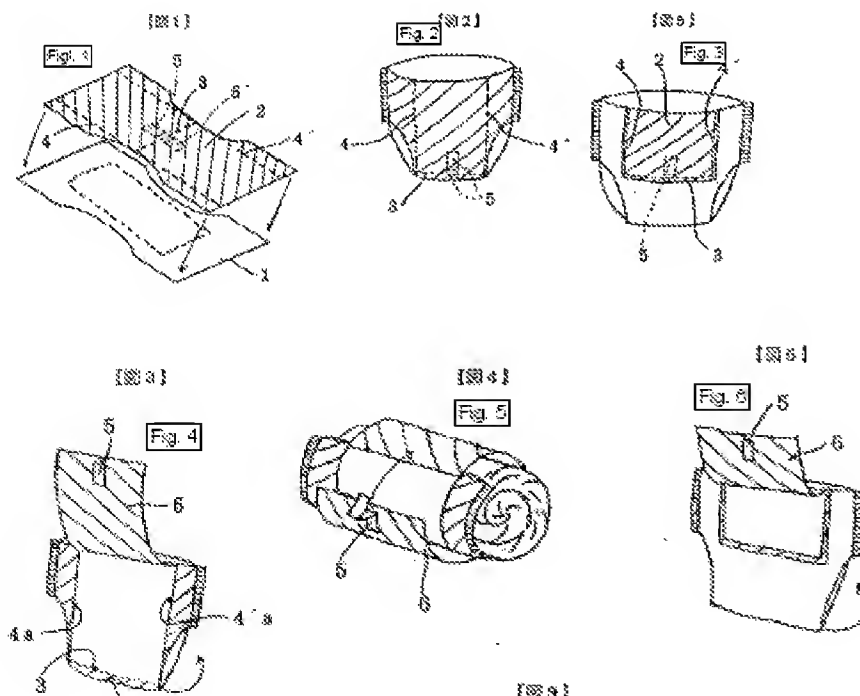
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invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

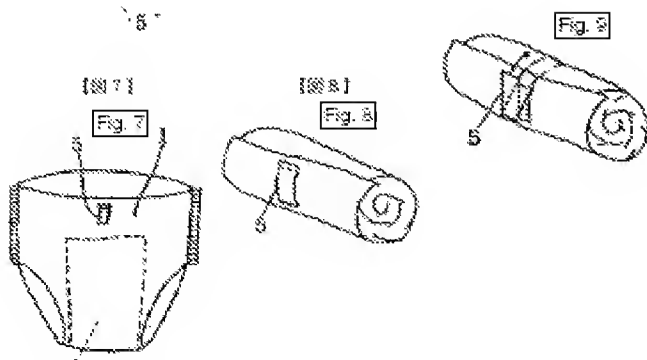
9. Claims 1, 2 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer et al. (US 6,582,413).

10. In Re claim 1, JP 11-076296 discloses the pants type diaper, since diaper is a variation of pants, comprising:

an absorbent core positioned between a liquid impermeable back sheet and a liquid permeable top sheet; the absorbent article comprises the fastening sticker 5 fully capable of being separable completely from the main body of the article; and wherein the article has a front body side and a back body side formed by folding at the longitudinal middle point of the main body (See Abstract, ln. 4-15; Figs. 1-9).



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JP 11-076296 does not expressly disclose the sticker comprising the male-female fastening system.

Krautkramer teaches the diaper (Col. 2, line 41) comprising elements having the male-female fastening system (Col. 27, lines 9-20).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the sticker of JP 11-076296 with the male-female fastening system, as taught by Krautkramer in order to employ the conventionally known method for fastening diaper elements.

JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer do not expressly disclose the adhesive tape fixed to the exterior of a diaper.

The particular location of the adhesive sticker depends of the way the diaper has been folded, and therefore it is the matter of mere relocation of the essential working parts of the invention. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to locate the adhesive sticker depending of the way the article has been folded in, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70 (MPEP 2144.04 (VI-C)).

With regard to newly added limitation of “the fastening sticker does not have an inseparable fixing edge portion fixed to the main body of the diaper”, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the fixing edge portion of the fastening sticker separable, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlicnran*, 168 USPQ 177, 179 (**MPEP 2144.04 (V-C)**).

11. In Re claim 2, JP 11-076296 discloses the diaper article wherein the fastening sticker 5 is fastened to the front or back body (See Figs. 5 and 7).

12. In Re claim 9, JP 11-076296 discloses the diaper article wherein the fastening sticker 5 is attached to the product package (See Figs. 1-9).

13. In Re claim 10, JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer disclose the invention discussed above, but do not expressly disclose the particular parameter of the fastening sticker length.

The length of the sticker affects the peel-off force, and therefore is the matter of optimization as being result effective variable. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the particular parameter of the sticker length in order to reach desired peel-off force, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980) (**MPEP 2144.05 (II-B)**).

14. In Re claim 11, JP 11-076296 discloses the pants type diaper, since diaper is a variation of pants, comprising:

an absorbent core positioned between a liquid impermeable back sheet and a liquid permeable top sheet; the absorbent article comprises the fastening sticker 5 fully capable of being separable completely from the main body of the article; and wherein the article has a front body side and a back body side formed by folding at the longitudinal middle point of the main body (See Abstract, ln. 4-15; Figs. 1-9).

JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer do not expressly disclose the adhesive tape fixed to the exterior of a diaper.

The rationale of obviousness rejection discussed above in claim 1 is incorporated herein in its entirety.

15. In Re claim 12, JP 11-076296 discloses the pants type diaper, since diaper is a variation of pants, comprising: an absorbent core positioned between a liquid impermeable back sheet and a liquid permeable top sheet; the absorbent article comprises the fastening sticker 5 fully capable of being separable completely from the main body of the article; and wherein the article has a front body side and a back body side formed by folding at the longitudinal middle point of the main body (See Abstract, ln. 4-15; Figs. 1-9).

JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer do not expressly disclose the adhesive tape fixed to the exterior of a diaper.

The rationale of obviousness rejection discussed above in claim 1 is incorporated herein in its entirety.

16. Claims 3, 5, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer et al. (US 6,582,413) and further in view of Franco et al. (200610084935).

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17. In Re claim 3, JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer disclose the claimed invention discussed above, but do not expressly disclose the article wherein the fastening sticker has a design on its surface.

Franco refers to generally conventional use of the fastening sticker colored and decorated what reads on having design on its surface (P. 2, [0020], ln. 5-10).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the absorbent article of JP 11-076296/ Krautkramer with the fastening sticker having design on its surface, as motivated by Franco, because such modification would improve the attractiveness of the product.

18. In Re claim 5, JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer and further in view of Franco disclose the claimed invention discussed above, but do not expressly disclose the article wherein the design of the fastening sticker is relating to the pattern of a design on the outer surface of the main body of the article.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the fastening sticker of JP 11-076296/ Krautkramer/ Franco with the design of the fastening sticker is relating to the pattern of a design on the outer surface of the main body of the article, since it is a generally conventional way to make the sticker relatively invisible.

19. In Re claim 7, JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer disclose the claimed invention discussed above but do not expressly disclose the fastening sticker has a stretchable sheet material in its middle portion and that the sheet-like member capable of being re-stuck and re-

peeled off and separable completely from the main body of the article is connected to opposite end portions of the stretchable sheet material.

Franco teaches the elastic diaper components that vary according to the kind of diaper (P. 5, [0059], ln. 1-5) what means they are stretchable and capable of being re-stuck and re-peeled of and fully capable of being separable completely.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the sticker of JP 11-076296/ Krautkramer with the stretchable material, as taught by Franco in order to convenience the operation of the device.

20. In Re claim 8, JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer disclose the claimed invention discussed above, but do not expressly disclose the article having a plurality of such fastening stickers.

Franco states the conventionality of using more than one stickers (See P. 2, [0020], ln. 8).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the absorbent article of JP 11-076296/ Krautkramer with the plurality of stickers, since making singular part plural is obvious. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co., 193 USPQ 8*

21. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer et al. (US 6,582,413) and Franco et al. (US 2006/0084935), as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Olson et al. (US 6,297,424).

JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer and Franco disclose the claimed invention discussed above, but do not expressly disclose the absorbent article wherein the design is aiming the intellectual education of an infant.

Olson teaches the absorbent article wherein the design is aiming the intellectual education of an infant (See Fig. 1).

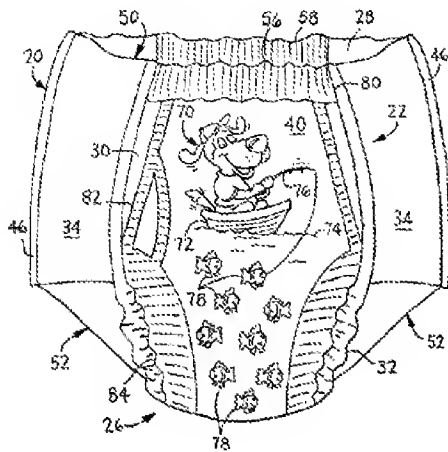


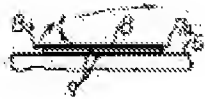
FIG. 1

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the absorbent article of JP 11-076296/ Krautkramer/ Franco with the design aiming the intellectual education of an infant, as taught by Olson, because such modification would provide the product with the educational features.

22. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer and Franco et al. (US 2006/0084935), as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of JP 05-319718.

JP 11-076296 in view of Krautkramer and Franco disclose the claimed invention discussed above, but do not expressly disclose the article wherein the part of the fastening sticker on which the design is drawn or any other portion thereof is separable from the base portion of the sticker.

JP 05-319718 teaches the absorbent article comprising the fastening sticker wherein the portion 8 of it fully capable of having a design separable from the base portion 7 (See Abstract, ln. 12-18; Fig.).



It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the absorbent article of JP 11-076296/ Krautkramer/ Franco with the fastening sticker having removable part, as taught by JP 05-319718, because such modification would let the user to change educational designs.

Conclusion

23. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ILYA Y. TREYGER whose telephone number is (571)270-3217. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on 571-272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ilya Y Treyger/
Examiner, Art Unit 3761

/Tatyana Zalukaeva/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3761